

# INFORMATION REPORT

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50X1-HUM

COUNTRY USSR

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**SUBJECT Biological Warfare and Related Research**

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION FOR THE RESEARCH  
USE OF TRAINED INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS

# EVALUATE

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## Organization

1. Inasmuch as a biological warfare project would form part of the general armaments plan, it would fall within the competence of the 1st Chief Directorate of the Council of Ministers of the USSR. This directorate is officially under the command of Col. Gen. Vannikov, but Beriia is the real director. Research would be delegated to the Sanitary-Hygienic Department of the Soviet Army.

Location of research

2. Biological warfare research is being conducted at Kuibyshev in the Specially Dangerous Infections Section of the Microbiological Department of the Sanitary Hygienic Research Institute of the Soviet Army. The group is headed by Col. Nikolai Nikolaiyevich Ginsburg, Scientific Director of the Microbiological Department, and includes:

Col. Mikhail Mikhailovich Faibich

Lt. Col. Andrei Stepanovich Grudenko (previously reported as Grudnikov)

Col. Ivan Vasil'yevich Ptushkin (previously reported as Plushkin; which is more likely correct).

Lt. Col. Pavel Fedorovich Romanov

Eng. Col. Mikhail Vasilievich Altukhov (previously reported at 141)  
Col. M. B. Altuchov; Altukhov appears more likely). 142

Col. Nikolai Filipovich Kopylov (previously reported as Kopylov)

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Comment: M. H. Ginsburg has published papers on the immunology of typhus, typhoid, and other acute infections. M. H. Faibich is known to have worked on the production of tularemia vaccine. 50X1-HUM

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NO CHANGE in Class. ☐

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3. This group received a Stalin Prize (3rd Class) in 1948 for "developing and bringing into production new methods of preparation of vaccines, bacteriophages, and antibiotics". [redacted] this was a cover for its real activities, which were in fact connected with the submerged culture of pathogenic organisms. [redacted] evidence:

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- a. [redacted] the Central Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology (TsEM) in Moscow was erecting new buildings which contained accommodations for submerged culture installations for vaccine production.

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- b. Members of the Knibvshov group often came to Moscow, [redacted] they were finishing important work not connected directly with vaccines.

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why could they have  
this have  
concerned  
penicillin  
production?

- c. A stainless steel vat, with a capacity of 10 cubic meters and suitable for submerged culture purposes, was supplied to TsEM for the group.

4. [redacted] 50X1-HUM

5. [redacted] no existing or projected penicillin or fermentation plant could be used or readily adapted to BW production. The Soviet fermentation industry is in general very backward and employs antiquated plant and processes. [redacted]

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#### Foot-and-mouth Disease Virus Research Station

6. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
- A first class research station devoted to the study of foot-and-mouth disease existed on this island until about 1933. The institute, which was modeled on the Riems Institute, was founded by Prof. Skomorokhov, a distinguished virusologist (deputy chief: Ratner). The entire staff, from the professor down to the bottle washers, was arrested in 1933 and has not been heard of since then. In 1935, the institute was removed from the Ministry of Agriculture and placed under another ministry. (Comment: The institute was completely dismantled or destroyed in 1941-42, and the island is now apparently being used as a sort of holding station for a group of German engineers.) 50X1-HUM

#### Tularaemia

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7. [redacted] this disease was prevalent in the Baku area. Prof. Khatanover (VIEW = All-Union Institute of Experimental Veterinary Medicine at Kuzminki, near Moscow, and at the Moscow Control Institute for Sera and Vaccines) is a prominent worker in this field. Alibekov does research at the Baku Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology. (Comment: Khatanov is a well-known authority on tularaemia). 50X1-HUM

#### Secret MYD Chemical Laboratory

8. [redacted] a strongly guarded house, surrounded by a high wooden fence and watch-dogs, in the Sokolniki district (sic) Moscow, on Vtoraya Meshchanskaya Ul., opposite No. 47. (Comment: Vtoraya Meshchanskaya Ulitsa is in the Dzerzhinsky district; it runs north and south, a few blocks west of the Leningrad Station.) The window curtains are always drawn, but it is occasionally possible to obtain a glimpse of chemical apparatus, fume-cupboards, etc., when the curtains are not properly drawn. Visitors are few and furtive. [redacted] assumes, on no obvious grounds, that MYD toxicological and pharmacological studies are pursued in this house. 50X1-HUM

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Code Numbers for Notifiable Diseases

9.

Forma No. 30: cholera ✓

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Forma No. 3 : typhus

Forma No. 5 : plague

Forma No. 2 : venereal infection

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